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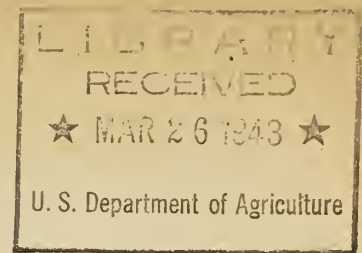
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. FOOD PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ON  
FARM MACHINERY RATIONING



General

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1. Q. When will farm machinery be distributed under L-170?
  - A. Distribution plans have already been issued to manufacturers authorizing the release of some items; others will follow on a day to day basis, with the items needed most immediately receiving first attention.
  
2. Q. What can a manufacturer tell the dealer who asks how many machines he will get?
  - A. As soon as a manufacturer receives his distribution plan he may notify the dealer.
  
3. Q. Will each manufacturer be permitted to ship into approximately the same territories and in the same proportions as in the past?
  - A. Yes, as nearly as possible, considering readjustments required by shifts in crop production areas and the concentration of manufacturing under L-170.
  
4. Q. Has the limitation on the stocks of repair parts in dealers' hands been removed?
  - A. Yes, the provision originally in L-170 limiting dealers' inventories of repair parts to 90 days' supplies has been removed from L-170.
  
5. Q. Some farmers had supplies of farm fencing on hand before rationing. May they sell it to their neighbors?
  - A. Yes, if the farmer is not also a dealer. Because of the limited amount of fencing to be produced this year, it is desirable that farmers sell surplus fence to neighbors. No purchase certificate is required in such a transaction. If purchased under rationing, fence may be sold by farmers subject to the approval of the County Farm Rationing Committee, as provided in the application form FR-20.

6. Q. When will feed grinders produced under L-170 be available for sale?
- A. Distribution plans for burr and hammer mills have been released to manufacturers and the machines should be available for sale soon.
7. Q. May County Farm Rationing Committees issue purchase certificates for articles such as stoves?
- A. No. County Farm Rationing Committees are not authorized to issue purchase certificates for stoves or any other items not listed in Schedule 1 of Rationing Order C\* as amended. Any stoves that are rationed are rationed by War Price and Rationing Boards of the O.P.A.

#### Administration

8. Q. What action may an applicant take if a County Farm Rationing Committee has disapproved his application?
- A. (Reference: Paragraphs 2.229, 2.230, 2.231, and 2.232 of Rationing Order C\*.) If an applicant feels he has been unjustifiably denied a purchase certificate he may appeal the denial in the following order:
- 1: Appeal for reconsideration to the County Farm Rationing Committee.
  - 2: Appeal to the State USDA War Board.
  - 3: Appeal to the Director of Food Production, whose action shall be final and conclusive.

If a person seeks relief of a type not provided for in the rationing program, but is a rationing order administered by the Director of Food Production, he should file a written statement and an explanation of his reasons, with the Director of Food Production, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

9. Q. Should State and County War Boards prepare lists of County Rationing Committee personnel or of State and county quotas for distribution to anyone seeking such information?
- A. State and County War Boards are not required or expected to furnish lists of County Rationing Committee personnel or of State or county quotas; however, this information must be made available for public inspection.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

10. Q. What items of machinery require that the applicant certify that he has located them in dealers' hands?
- A. Only those items listed in Schedule 1 on which it has been announced that no quotas will be presently established.
11. Q. State quotas may need readjustment for one of three reasons: the quota is too small; too large; no quota is provided. What steps can be taken to bring about desirable readjustments?
- A. The State War Board should report the facts to the Washington office, fully explaining their position.
12. Q. A County Farm Rationing Committee or a County USDA War Board believes their county has been discriminated against in setting up county quotas for farm machinery. To whom should they appeal?
- A. County quotas were set by the State USDA War Boards. The question should be taken up with them, remembering that they were given a very limited amount of machinery for allocation among the counties.
13. Q. If a county has machinery or equipment in excess of its absolute minimum needs, what procedure should the County Farm Rationing Committee follow?
- A. The County Farm Rationing Committee should report this condition to the State War Board, so that transfers can be made to other areas where the need is more urgent. Food goal requirements demand that every machine be put to maximum use.
14. Q. How will a County Farm Rationing Committee be able to identify rationed machinery delivered from L-170 production and manufacturers' plant stocks?
- A. The items of equipment will bear tags showing the counties in which they are to be sold for use. Upon receipt of tagged machinery, dealers will forward detachable stubs to County Farm Rationing Committees.





15. Q. Should dealers send purchase certificates to the manufacturer? If not, what guide will the manufacturer have for his distribution?
- A. No. The dealer should not transmit purchase certificates to the manufacturer; he should return them to the issuing County Farm Rationing Committees. The Department's distribution plan will be given to manufacturers for their use in distributing the machinery and equipment they produce. The dealer should order from the manufacturer on the basis of the purchase certificate.
16. Q. How does a farmer purchase from a mail order house?
- A. He forwards his purchase certificate with his order.
17. Q. Can County Farm Rationing Committees issue all purchase certificates for their quotas within a short period--say, 30 days?
- A. There is no time restriction limiting the period during which quotas may be used. Additions to quotas will depend on whether or not more machinery is made available.
18. Q. If Schedule 2 items are not rationed, why are they listed in Rationing Order C\*?
- A. The Department is controlling the flow of those items in order to assure equitable distribution.
19. Q. In one county dealers notified the County Farm Rationing Committee that purchase certificates must be issued to dealers in order to make it possible for dealers to secure from distributors and wholesalers needed machinery. What about this?
- A. County Farm Rationing Committees should not issue purchase certificates to dealers as such. Purchase certificates are not needed for transfers through trade channels.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

20. Q. Can a farmer who has obtained a purchase certificate from his County Farm Rationing Committee use it to buy a machine located in another county?
- A. No. Through cooperation of dealers, distributors, and manufacturers all rationed machinery has been apportioned to counties to be sold for use only in the county to which it is assigned.
21. Q. How can machinery manufactured under L-170 be purchased for nonfarm use?
- A. Unless he has a priority rating he can use, the applicant must submit an application for a priority rating to the War Production Board. The War Production Board's policy is to reject most of these applications. A few will probably be granted for work of military importance. Dealers are obliged to honor priority ratings.
22. Q. How can manufacturers decide what models and sizes to produce and still conform with the distribution patterns received from the Department of Agriculture?
- A. The Department of Agriculture does not restrict the models of machinery to be produced. Within the limits of L-170, manufacturers will usually produce the sizes and types of machines which, based upon their experience, they know will be in demand.
23. Q. How can a farmer having a purchase certificate obtain the make of machine he wants to buy?
- A. If the make of machine he wants is not available for sale in his county, the farmer may find it necessary to substitute some other make.
24. Q. From what source should dealers get their information regarding the Farm Machinery Rationing program?
- A. Dealers will receive information on the farm machinery rationing program from War Boards and through business and trade channels. However, since close associations with dealers will continue throughout, County Farm Rationing Committees and War Boards should be of service to dealers by promptly advising them of new developments in the rationing program.



25. Q. What, if anything, can or should the County Farm Rationing Committees or the State USDA War Board do when a dealer refuses to release or sell a piece of equipment or machinery (in his stock) to a farmer presenting a purchase certificate and having the money to purchase?
- A. There is no authority under Rationing Order C\* to compel the dealer to deliver to a farmer holding a purchase certificate any farm machinery or equipment in the dealer's stock. We suggest, however, that a representative of the State or County War Board visit the dealer and explain to him in detail the provisions of the rationing order. It should be pointed out that farm machinery for agricultural use is not sold on a rated basis and that his refusal to deliver the equipment needed by the farmer will probably result in his having no sale for his stock. In no event should any threats be made against the dealer, since it is his privilege to refuse to sell any equipment he has.
26. Q. Are people in and near town who raise poultry but are not farmers eligible to obtain purchase certificates for poultry netting?
- A. Yes, such purchasers may apply for purchase certificates to purchase rationed items necessary to poultry production.
27. Q. Must machinery and equipment be kept at the manufacturer's branch or factory until a dealer places an order on the basis of a rationing certificate presented by a farmer?
- A. No. Machinery and equipment must be kept at the manufacturer's branch or factory only until the Department authorizes release.

#### Quotas

28. Q. Do State and county quotas apply only to machinery and equipment manufactured under L-170?
- A. Quotas apply also to machinery and equipment in manufacturers' factory stock on October 31, 1942, as well as to machines and equipment added to State and county quotas from dealers' and distributors' stocks.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

29. Q. What does the term "farm wagons" as used in Part I of "Quotas" include?
- A. The term "farm wagons" means "farm trucks" (not motor trucks), and wagon running gears. (Wagon boxes are not rationed.)
30. Q. Are the quotas on spike and spring harrows based on one section, or on a complete harrow consisting of more than one section?
- A. The quota on spike and spring harrows is based on one section. One purchase certificate may be issued for three sections, but each section must be charged as one unit against the county quota.
31. Q. Do tractor-drawn cultivator quotas include tractor-mounted cultivators?
- A. Yes.
32. Q. How will the tag plan work on farm elevators of which there are four or five types and from 20 to 25 combinations, each sale being a special case applying to a particular farmer's needs?
- A. A manufacturer will be notified of his distribution plan, which directs him to make available a certain number of elevators for sale in each county. The type of elevator to be sent to each particular county will be left to the manufacturer.
33. Q. Has the Department of Agriculture arranged for a quota of pipe and fittings, normally sold through jobbers, needed to install milking machines?
- A. Not as yet. Arrangements are now being developed by the Department of Agriculture and the War Production Board to provide a supply of pipe and fittings to install milking machines and make similar farm installations.

34. Q. Should State War Boards adjust county quotas to provide for the distribution of machinery that was in dealers' stock as of November 1 or becomes a part of dealers' stock by reason of the release of branch houses' and distributors' stocks?
- A. Yes. A county's quota should be currently readjusted, when necessary, to include the county's share of both tagged and untagged machinery. However, in readjusting such quotas, the State War Board should take into account the fact that 25% of the original quota allotted on the basis of Order L-170 might not be manufactured. A desirable precaution is to withhold this 25% as a cushion with which to make such later readjustments as may prove to be desirable.
35. Q. Why does there need to be this difference of 25% between the original State quota and the total of current county quotas?
- A. Order L-170 originally contemplated the production of only 100% of the machinery authorized by this order. To expedite machinery production, 75% of the materials needed was immediately allocated to manufacturers. The remaining 25% was to be allocated later, when an estimate could be obtained of the amount of partially fabricated and raw inventory in manufacturers' possessions. Then, by adjustment, the 100% production authorized by L-170 could be achieved. However, since this decision was reached, greater attention is being given to the food supply, and it has been decided that a larger total production is desirable. Accordingly, when a manufacturer has reported enough material on hand to produce more than the quota allowed him under L-170, his appeal for permission to increase his production above 100% has in certain instances been granted.

As the Department learns of these increases and determines the net production (which is the sum of the production authorized by L-170, plus the production increased by appeals, plus the manufacturers' stocks on November 1), the Department may take one of three actions:

- (1) If the increase be nominal, the Department may increase State quotas and pro-rate to the counties in accordance with the original pattern furnished by the State War Boards--notifying the manufacturers and State War Boards accordingly. (This was done in the case of milking machines.)
- (2) If time permits, the Department may revise State quotas and request the State War Boards to readjust county quotas and submit new patterns; the Department will then notify manufacturers accordingly.
- (3) The Department may ask State War Boards to submit additional sets of county quotas based, respectively, on 125%, 150%, 175%, and 200%, so that the Washington office may use as a basis the one most appropriate, thus avoiding delay in notifying manufacturers.



However, despite these plans to act on distribution with accuracy and speed, there is no assurance that the manufacturers will produce their entire quotas in time for seasonal use. This will be uncertain until the machinery or equipment actually appears in dealers' hands. It is important, therefore, for the original county quotas allocated by the State War Boards, to which increases may be made in one of the three ways described above, to remain on the basis of 75% production under L-170.

Example: The 100% quota for a given county is 12 burr mills. The State War Board allocates to the county, however, only 9 burr mills, or 75%. Because of additional material found in manufacturers' inventories, the State's quota is increased and the State War Board allots four additional burr mills to the county. This county's quota is then 16 burr mills on the basis of 100%, but only 13 burr mills in actuality. Thus some protection is offered in case the production of machinery and equipment might, for unforeseen reasons, be less than anticipated. If 16 burr mills are shipped to the county, three mills are subject to the disposition of the State War Board; their distribution may be controlled by increasing the quota of this county or of the counties which the Board determines to be most in need of the equipment.

#### Sales and Transfers

36. Q. Can one dealer transfer machinery and equipment to another dealer in the same or another county?
- A. Yes, but tagged machinery must be sold for use only in the county designated on the tag.
37. Q. What about machinery and equipment which appeared in Temporary Orders A and B, but does not appear in Order C\*?
- A. Transfer or sale of any machinery or equipment not listed in Rationing Order C as amended, is not rationed by the Department of Agriculture even though it may have appeared in Orders A or B\*.

\* Temporary Orders A and B have been redesignated as Food Production Orders 1 and 2; and Rationing Order C, as Food Production Order 3.

38. Q. On sale of attachments, must the purchaser furnish any certificate or signed statement?
- A. No. Transfers and sales of all attachments to farm machinery and equipment listed in Rationing Order C\* are not rationed; therefore, they may be sold to a user without purchase certificate or certification. Repair parts are not rationed either.
39. Q. What is an attachment?
- A. For the purposes of the rationing program, an attachment for farm machinery and equipment is a supplementary appliance, not listed as an item of farm machinery and equipment in W.P.B. Order L-170, which may be added to an otherwise complete machine to extend its utility. For example, the power take-off on a tractor would be an attachment; but a tractor-mounted cultivator or mower would not be an attachment, because it is listed as an item of farm machinery and equipment in L-170.
40. Q. When directives or releases are issued to manufacturers, will tagging instructions be included?
- A. Yes. Distribution directives to manufacturers will include tagging instructions and provide a proposed form of tag to be used.
41. Q. Will there be any instructions to indicate which counties will receive earliest production?
- A. No. The order of delivery by manufacturers to various States and counties will be left entirely to the manufacturers. It is believed that manufacturers in most cases are well acquainted with seasonal requirements for machines and will satisfy these requirements to the best of their ability. Unless manufacturers request such information, the Department is not notifying them of those areas which should be given priority in the order of shipment of machines.
42. Q. In notifying manufacturers of units they are permitted to ship to a county, will the manufacturers' proposed distribution plans be followed as far as possible?
- A. Distribution patterns furnished by manufacturers are being followed as closely as possible by the Department of Agriculture in preparing directives to manufacturers. In some cases it has been necessary to deviate slightly from these plans. Some manufacturers did not submit distribution plans, and the Department could only guess at the type of distribution desired by such manufacturers.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.



43. Q. May tags be attached to rationed machinery or equipment at the dealer level?
- A. No. Instructions being sent to manufacturers provide that they shall attach tags to the machines before they are delivered to retail dealers. This provision that machines will be tagged before reaching the retail level is made to prevent the machines from being sold in counties other than those to which they were to be directed.

#### DAIRY FARM MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT

##### Milking Machines

44. Q. What is a milking machine?
- A. A milking machine, for the purpose of Rationing Order C\*, is a complete milking machine outfit consisting of one pumping unit of a given capacity and one or more milking units within capacity requirements; it may or may not include a power unit. A purchase certificate is required for each milking machine outfit as defined above, and each outfit should be charged as one milking machine against the State and county quota.
45. Q. Is a purchase certificate required for the purchase of a milking machine unit?
- A. A complete single or double milking unit to be purchased separately for replacement of a defective or worn out milking unit is considered as a repair part and requires no purchase certificate. A complete single or double unit to be added to an old installation is considered as an attachment and requires no purchase certificate.
46. Q. Is a purchase certificate required for the purchase of a milking machine pump?
- A. A pump to be purchased separately for replacement of a defective or worn out pump for a milking machine is considered as a repair part and requires no purchase certificate.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

47. Q. Do lids, pails, pulsators, and similar parts of a milking machine require purchase certificates?
- A. Lids, pails, pulsators, vacuum tanks and other items used to replace defective or worn out parts are considered as repair parts and require no purchase certificate.
48. Q. Does a power unit for a milking machine require a purchase certificate?
- A. A gas engine to be purchased separately for use with a milking machine is considered as a separate item and is rationed under Rationing Order C\*, requiring a purchase certificate. An electric motor to be purchased separately for use with a milking machine is not rationed by the Department of Agriculture. However, a priority rating may be necessary for the purchase of an electric motor, in which case a PD-1A application should be filed with the War Production Board.
49. Q. May County Farm Rationing Committees issue one farmer a purchase certificate for three double unit milking machines?
- A. Yes. It is the responsibility of the County Farm Rationing Committee to place the items of new farm machinery and equipment which are rationed on those farms where the equipment can be used to the best interest of the war effort. If releasing three milking machines or three machines of any type to one farm will best serve that interest, such action by the County Farm Rationing Committee is authorized.

#### Farm Milk Coolers

50. Q. If we ration two coils and compressors and have a quota of ten milk coolers will we have eight or ten left in the county quota?
- A. Coils and compressors are considered component parts of milk coolers and not as milk coolers. A compressor or coil to replace a compressor or coil defective or worn beyond further use is considered as a repair part and requires no purchase certificate. Immersion type, surface and tubular type farm milk coolers were removed from State and county quotas by Announcement 2.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

51. Q. Is an insulated milk-cooling tank considered an immersion milk cooler?

A. An insulated milk-cooling tank would not be considered as an immersion milk cooler unless it were of the type which is made to be used without additional equipment. For instance, if an immersion milk tank is manufactured for the use of ice or cold running water as a refrigerant, then the tank would be considered as an immersion milk cooler and would require a purchase certificate. If, on the other hand, additional equipment such as a compressor and coils to be used with the tank were necessary, then the tank would not be considered as a complete milk cooler but rather as a component part of the milk cooler, and would not require a purchase certificate.

52. Q. Can a dealer sell coils, condensers, and racks without purchase certificates?

A. Yes.

53. Q. When rationed, do tubular milk coolers include refrigeration units?

A. Yes.

#### Cream Separators

54. Q. Are cream separators with capacity in excess of 800 lbs. per hour rationed?

A. No. Only cream separators with a capacity of 800 lbs. per hour or less are rationed. The 800 lbs. per hour capacity size is the largest size authorized for production under L-170. If any separators with a capacity of more than 800 lbs. per hour are still available from previous production, they are few in number and exempt from rationing.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

55. Q. What are the restrictions on the purchase of farm poultry equipment?

A. The Department of Agriculture places no restrictions on the purchase of farm poultry equipment with the exception of fence, for which a purchase certificate is required.



56. Q. A dealer has indicated that a priority rating is necessary to purchase fencing and barbed wire. Is this true?
- A. A purchase certificate but no priority rating is necessary. All fencing listed in Schedule I of Rationing Order C\* (including poultry flooring) is for farm use or poultry production only.
57. Q. Is a five-bottom moldboard plow subject to rationing?
- A. No. Five-bottom moldboard plows have a zero production quota for 1943 under Order L-170. The Department has placed no restriction on the sale and distribution of existing stocks of such plows.
58. Q. What is poultry flooring as listed under "farm fencing" in Rationing Order C\*, and how may it be obtained by farmers?
- A. Poultry flooring, as listed under "farm fencing" in Rationing Order C\*, is 1 x 2 in. mesh of 14 gauge wire made up in 100 yard bolts, 36 inches high. This is the only poultry flooring for which County Farm Rationing Committees may issue purchase certificates. A farmer who needs steel "hardware cloth" (finer mesh) for use as poultry flooring must file a PD-1A application with the War Production Board.
59. Q. What, if any, are the restrictions on attachments and repair parts for farm machinery?
- A. Repair parts and attachments (whether or not for machines listed in Schedule I or II) are not rationed or restricted as to transfer or sale.
60. Q. May a gasoline motor for a combine harvester be considered a repair part under Rationing Order C\*?
- A. Yes.
61. Q. A mail order house sells through its retail stores a "flour mill" for the sum of \$10.95. Farmers use it to crush feed for stock. Is it a "feed grinder" chargeable against State and county quotas?
- A. This "flour mill" is a hand-operated mill. For that reason, the mill may be purchased without regard to Rationing Order C\* despite the fact that it can also be used to crush feed for stock. Such mills will not be charged against the State or county quota of feed grinders.

\* Rationing Order C has been redesignated as Food Production Order 3.

